

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PC-10 DHA-02 SCS-03
SCA-01 SY-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 EB-08 /118 R

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P 040131Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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ALSO FOR PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CT, US

SUBJECT: US-CAE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 1614 ; STATE 181732

1. CAE AMBASSADOR MAIDOU CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT
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SECRETARY SEELYE 2 AUGUST IN RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE
CONCERNING PCV MAHER MADE 28 JULY (STATE 178800).

2. MAIDOU SAID MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD INSTRUCTED
HIM TO EXPRESS GOCAE'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION
AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH USG. MAIDOU UNDERLINED HIS HOPE
THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE.

3. MAIDOU STATED MAHER INCIDENT HAPPENED BECAUSE PCV STOPPED AND ASKED QUESTIONS OF GUARDS WHICH AROUSED SUSPICIONS WHICH WERE COMPOUNDED BY MAHER'S DESIRE TO ENTER CONCESSION. MAIDOU STATED MAHER NOT BRUTALIZED BUT LATER FREED TO DEPART ON JULY 29.

4. MAIDOU LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE REPLYING SPECIFICALLY TO POINTS RAISED JULY 29 REQUESTING REASONS FOR MAHER'S DETENTION AND HIS WHEREABOUTS. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: MR. MAHER WAS ARRESTED THE EVENING OF JULY 25, 1977 FOR HAVING STOPPED BEFORE THE IMPERIAL RESIDENCE AT KOLONGO IN ORDER TO ASK QUESTIONS WHICH ELICITED SUSPICION AND FOR HAVING WISHED TO ENTER THE PREMISES IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS THERE. THUS, IMPERIAL SECURITY APPREHENDED HIM AND AFTER INTERROGATION, HE WAS RELEASED AND EXPELLED FROM CENTRAL AFRICAN TERRITORY FROM WHICH HE DEPARTED JULY 29, 1977 BY THE UTA FLIGHT TO PARIS.

5. SEELYE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT EXPULSION OCCURRED. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD RAISE DOUBTS IN MINDS OF OTHER PCVS CONCERNING GOCAE'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THEM AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EXPULSION MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT PROGRAM. ALSO CONCERN THIS INCONSISTENT WITH STATE OF US-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAE BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. SEELYE INFORMED MAIDOU OF AMBASSADOR QUAINTON'S RETURN TO BANGUI AND GLACIAL AUDIENCE WITH EMPEROR BOKASSA. MAIDOU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BOKASSA WAS CERTAINLY NOT FOND OF THE PRESS, AND THAT THIS WAS BASIS OF HIS REACTION. CAE IN PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR MOMENTOUS HISTORIC EVENT AND CRITICISM BY FOREIGN PRESS NOT RESPECTFUL OF THIS.

7. SEELYE EXPRESSED USG'S CONCERN FOR GOLDSMITH'S WELFARE, NOTING HIS WIFE IS AMERICAN AND HE WORKS FOR AMERICAN FIRM. MAIDOU INDICATED THAT HE WOULD REPORT THESE CONCERNS TO BANGUI.

8. MAIDOU WAS PLEASED TO NOTE AMB. QUAINTON'S RETURN TO BANGUI AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT QUAINTON WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS WITH BOKASSA. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT US AND CAE HAVE PREVIOUSLY GONE THROUGH CYCLES OF THIS SORT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOOD RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. CHRISTOPHER

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